



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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T-14-2000  
December 14, 2000  
For Immediate Release

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## Early Transfer of Fort Ord's Fritzsche Field

SACRAMENTO--- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the early transfer of 74 acres to the City of Marina and 12 acres to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority to facilitate the construction of a resort hotel, golf course and aviation support facility. The transfer, approved by Governor Gray Davis, follows negotiations between the DTSC, the U.S. Army, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority and the City of Marina.

"The early transfer of this property provides the community with the ability to implement their plans for development, thereby returning this property as a new financial anchor," said Ed Lowry, DTSC Director.

Under the agreement, the U.S. Army will fund, if needed, further investigation and cleanup activities at the facility. Approximately 71 acres of property at Fort Ord were used as a practice bazooka and rifle grenade range.

"I'm in favor of the end result of this effort, which is to get Fort Ord land back into local control, said U.S. Rep. Sam Farr, D-Carmel. "Any decision that leads to making this land available for new economic activity is a step in the right direction."

Since its founding in 1917, Fort Ord served as a training and staging facility for U.S. Army infantry troops. From 1947 to 1975, the site was used as a basic training center. After 1975 Fort Ord was used to train infantry troops. In 1991 the Fort was selected for decommission but troop reassignment was not complete until 1994. Although Army personnel still operate parts of the base, no active Army division is currently stationed at Fort Ord. Previously, the Army conducted investigations of this area and removed a number of practice bazooka rockets, demolitions charges, and related scrap.

Pursuant to the agreement with DTSC, the City of Marina has adopted a local ordinance to address the potential for discovering undetected ordnance and explosives by requiring permits for certain excavation activities. In addition, the early transfer includes a land use covenant that has been negotiated between the DTSC, the Army and the City of Marina. The Army committed to sign this covenant.

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***DTSC is one of the six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.***